

## **Saga Marine Develops Proprietary Hull Composite for Ocean Cruisers**

### **Laminate Combines Light Weight with Increased Impact Resistance**

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Saga Marine announced this week the development of a new hull composite designed to improve the collision resistance of its sailboats.

The design co-weaves a specially developed Dupont laminate of Kevlar® E-glass, combined with a premium, tough vinylester resin. The new composite material is laid on a Balteck® aircraft-grade balsa core. The result is a light weight hull with higher local and global stiffness as well as improved impact resistance.

“As part of our mission to provide the safest performance cruiser on the market, we entered into a collaboration with DuPont and JB Martin Ltd.,(Quebec), to deliver to our Saga owners the safest, fastest ocean-going hull possible,” said Allan Poole, President of Saga Marine “After a three year development period, we are pleased to announce that all Saga sailboats ---- the 35, the 43, the 48, and the new 409 ---- will be manufactured with the new hull materials beginning this summer.”

“The Dupont Kevlar®E-glass double weave fabric has been developed to improve the resistance to oblique impacts that are becoming a common occurrence when sailing the world’s oceans,” said Ken Raybould, of Maritime Technical Services Ltd. in Southampton, England, who performed an independent comparative analysis of the new Saga hull material and other commonly used materials.

Data indicated that Saga’s new hull material is twice as strong as the more traditional epoxy hull, and significantly lighter and stiffer than fiberglass. It is also about three times stronger than aluminum.

#### **About Saga Marine**

Saga Marine, based in St. Catharines, Ontario, builds cruising boats, known for superb sailing characteristics and luxury accommodations. Speed, safety, ventilation, detailed craftsmanship, and low maintenance exteriors are the hallmarks of a Saga design.

The company was founded in 1995 by Allan Poole, a veteran boat builder in the US, UK, and Canada. The Saga 43, designed by Robert Perry was introduced in 1996, followed by the Saga 35. By Spring 2004, Saga will be delivering the 70th hull from the factory. The Saga 43 continues to be the mainstay of the Saga fleet. A third Perry design, the Saga 48, was introduced in 2003 and took *Cruising World* Boat of the Year honors in its class. The Saga 409 is the latest introduction to the Saga line. For more information, visit Saga’s web site at [www.sagayachts.com](http://www.sagayachts.com).

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